

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 85 and 102-107 are amended, and claims 1-84 and 86-101 are canceled. In addition, claims 108-124 are newly added. Claims 85 and 102-124 are now pending in the application, of which claim 103 is withdrawn. Applicants respectfully request reexamination and reconsideration of the application.

Initially, Applicants note that each of new claims 108-124 reads on elected species 14, which corresponds to Figures 29a-32. That is, Figures 29a-32 do not exclude any of the features of the invention now recited in new claims 108-124. (See MPEP § 806.04(f).) For similar reasons, independent claims 102 and 107 as well as dependent claims 104-106 continue to read on the elected species 14. In addition, Applicants note that pending claims 85, 102, and 104-124 are generic to other species identified in the Restriction of February 11, 2005.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claim 96 includes allowable subject matter. Although claim 96 has been canceled, new claim 120 recites an opening in one of the leaf structures. Applicants believe that new claim 120, like claim 96, is allowable. As discussed below, Applicants further believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

The drawings were objected to because reference character 1865 in Figure 30 is not mentioned in the specification. The description of Figure 30 in the specification contained a typographical error, which is now corrected. The specification now refers to "leaf portion 1865"—rather than leaf portion 1855—which should overcome the objection to the drawings.

Claim 96 was rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph as allegedly not described in the specification such that a person of ordinary skill in the field could make and use the invention of claim 96. Although Applicants have canceled the set of claims that included claim 96 mooted this rejection, Applicants have added claim 120, which includes an opening in a leaf structure, and respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants note that the drawings show two examples of a leaf portion with a hole or opening. Figure 30 shows a leaf portion that includes "a 'clover-leaf' opening therethrough." (Specification pg. 87, lines 4-5.) Figure 32 also shows a "leaf portion . . . with an opening therethrough." (Specification pg. 88, lines 5-6.) As can be see in Figures 30 and 32, those openings are holes. The specification also mentions such openings (or holes) with regard to Figures 29a-29d. (Specification pg. 86, lines 4-7.) The specification thus provides nonlimiting

examples of a leaf portion with a hole or opening and fully supports canceled claim 96 and new claim 120.

Claims 84-86, 93, 95, 97, 101, 102, and 104-107 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as anticipated by US Patent No. 4,941,832 to Korsunsky et al. ("Korsunsky"). In addition, claims 87-90 and 94 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as obvious in view of Korsunsky. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Independent claim 102 states that "the first support joins the first leaf portion to the second leaf portion such that the first side of the first leaf portion, the opposite side of the first leaf portion, the first side of the second leaf portion, and the opposite side of the second leaf portion are substantially parallel." While the mounting arm 32 of Korsunsky is bent (bends A and B shown in Figure 2) into its functional position (i.e., positioned such that mounting surface 34 is disposed to contact conductor 5 as shown in Figure 3), the mounting arm 32 (which was equated with the first leaf portion of claim 102) is not parallel with the first arm 10 (which was equated with the second leaf portion of claim 102). Therefore, Korunsky does not teach or suggest the interconnection element of independent claim 102.

Claims 85 and 103-106 depend from claim 102 and therefore also patentable over Korsunsky. Claims 85 and 103-106 also recite additional features not taught or suggested by Korsunsky.

For example, claim 85 describes each leaf structure as comprising a structure material disposed on a conductive seed material. In contrast, Korsunsky's entire terminal 2 is made of a single piece of sheet metal that is shaped by etching or stamping. (Korsunsky col. 3, lines 62-65.) The structure of the leaf portion described in claim 85 is thus not only different than the structure of Korsunsky's arms 10, 12, and 32 but is also more advantageous. For example, the presence of the seed material allows the structural material to be deposited using electroplating and/or lithographic techniques. Therefore, Korunsky does not teach or suggest the interconnection element of independent claim 85.

As another example, claim 106 requires that "the contact tip, the first and second leaf portions and the first and second supports are each structurally distinct and separate elements that are joined one to another." As discussed above, the entire terminal 2 in Korsunsky is formed from a single sheet of sheet metal by etching or stamping the sheet metal. (Korsunsky col. 3, lines 62-65.) Thus, for example, the mounting surface 34 is not structurally distinct from the

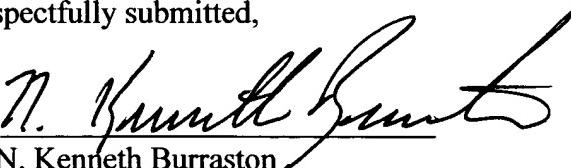
mounting arm 32; rather, the mounting surface 34 and the mounting arm 32 are integrally formed of the same sheet material. Similarly, no element (e.g., the first arm 10, the second arm 12, the extension 30, the web 8) of the terminal 2 is structurally distinct from another element; rather all of the elements of the terminal 2 are integrally formed from the same sheet material. Because all such elements are integrally formed from the same sheet material, those elements need not be "joined" to any other element. Korsunsky thus fails to disclose that the elements are both structurally distinct and joined to each other. Therefore, Korunsky does not teach or suggest the interconnection element of independent claim 106.

Independent claim 107 includes a requirement that the "one leaf portion" and the "another leaf portion" are substantially parallel. As discussed above with respect to claim 102, Korunsky fails to teach or suggest such a requirement. Therefore, Korunsky does not teach or suggest the interconnection element of independent claim 107.

New independent claim 108 includes "a plurality of leaf structures . . . disposed in a stack." The arms 10, 12, and 32 of Korsunsky are not disposed in a stack. Therefore, new independent claim 110, as well as claims 109-124, which depend from claim 108, are patentable over Korsunsky.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all of the claims are allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a discussion with Applicants' attorney would be helpful, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (801) 323-5934.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 24, 2005
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